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VOL. XVIII.
NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.
THE LATEST MILITARY SITUATION.
Latest from the Great Expedition.
INCIDENTS OF THE ATTACK ON FORT FISHER.
Explosion of the Floating Powder Magazine.
FROM NASHVILLE AND BELOW HOOD'S DEFEAT.
Probable Escape of His Army Across the Tennessee.
STATEMENTS OF A REBEL DESERTER AT NASHVILLE.
From Cairo and Below—Interesting Report of Gen. Davidson's Expedition.
FROM NEW ORLEANS, MEXICO AND WESTERN GULF NEWS.
A DANGEROUS REVOLT AGAINST THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.
From General Sherman—He has Sent a Force Against the Prison Pens.
FROM ST. LOUIS—MESSAGE OF GOV. FLETCHER.
New York Midnight Dispatches—Military and General News Items.
OFFICIAL BULLETIN.
WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON,
Wednesday, Dec. 28.—12:03 P. M.
The following extracts from Richmond papers of to-day have been received by the Department:
"The latest official advice from Georgia indicates that Sherman has already followed up the occupation of Savannah by sending a force of cavalry, artillery and infantry on an expedition whose destination cannot be guessed at from the direction in which it has moved. Those troops are reported to have gone toward Altamaha river, and we shall no longer be surprised to hear that they are as much as he expects to reach before the stream and are moving toward Southwest Georgia, in quest of prisoners of war supposed to be at Andersonville."
"The Federal army, after his grand campaign northward seems to be no secret. He will start from Fort Royal and move straight for Branchville, the point of junction between the Georgia and South Carolina railroads. He then proposes to follow the main railroad toward Virginia, and then to strike the Savannah by the way. All very true, but if Sherman proposes, Lee disputes it."
"The following official dispatch was received at night—"
"WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—6 p. m.
To His Excellency the President, and the Legislature:
The enemy have re-embarked under cover of a heavy fog. His movement is now developed. Have visited Ft. Fisher and find the damage slight. Except buildings not necessary for defense, only two guns were disabled and the marks remaining indicate that the bombardment was very heavy. Maj. Gen. Walling, who directed the attack, reports that the officers and men composing the garrison deserve special commendation for gallantry and heroic conduct. The fort was under very trying circumstances." (Signed)
B. BRAGG.
The Lynchburg *Triangler* has published additional information to the capture of the salt works, announced officially yesterday. It has been learned that the following important works were salt, but the source from which the report of their capture comes leaves us no room to doubt its correctness. The works were situated on the river about five miles below the mouth of the Roanoke, and held by them as is stated till Thursday, when the Federal re-embarked. The works were destroyed, and all the buildings were burned. Several pieces of artillery were also captured by them, but they got away before the Federal could reach them."
"Gen. Breckinridge was at last accounts at Nashville, preparing to follow the enemy on his retreat, understanding that the latter had been ordered to leave the country on which they were operating. The works are so important that they can be put in working order again by the 1st of February. A large quantity of salt, already captured, was destroyed, and the buildings were burned. Several pieces of artillery were also captured by them, but they got away before the Federal could reach them."
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